UNITED
NATIONS

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Security Council

Distr.
GENERAL

S/25671
27 April 1993

ORIGINAL: ENGLISH

LETTER DATED 27 APRIL 1993 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF TURKEY TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to respond to the letter dated 19 April 1993 addressed to you by the Permanent Representative of Armenia (document S/25626) which contains allegations and distortions in connection with Turkey's position vis-à-vis the conflict between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

In his letter, the Permanent Representative of Armenia refers to "unfriendly statements made by Turkish leaders". He should have qualified these statements as "friendly" since in their statements Turkish leaders have not but urged Armenia to stop aggression against its neighbour Azerbaijan, to withdraw from the Azerbaijani territories it occupied, to respect its commitments under the United Nations Charter and CSCE principles, and invited Armenia to contribute to peace and stability in the region which, in the opinion of the Turkish Government, will be to the benefit of the Armenian people who recently gained their independence.

The information given by "Radio of Russia" with reference to the Turkish newspaper "Hurriyet" in connection with alleged shipment of weapons to Azerbaijan, as well as allegations concerning transportation from Turkey of servicemen disguised as civilians to Nakhichevan are totally unfounded and deliberately fabricated by the Armenian authorities in order to divert the attention of the entire world from their aggressive policy.

In his letter the Permanent Representative of Armenia also questions the fate of 500 Armenian tourists and alleges that they have been prevented from boarding a train going back to Armenia. If he had checked the validity of this information with his authorities, he would have known that the tourist group was safely back home.

Turkey expects Armenia to put an end to the aggression and withdraw from the Azerbaijani territories it occupies. We call on the Armenian Government to respect its international commitments and clear the way to a political settlement of the existing issues between Armenia and Azerbaijan. When and if these expectations materialize Turkey would be ready to resume good neighbourly relations with Armenia which would greatly contribute to its integration with the international community.

I should be grateful if this letter is circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Inal BATU
Ambassador
Permanent Representative